

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 4, with the following paragraph:

Further, laccase has been found in *Irpex lacteus*, *Auricularia polytricha*, *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Coprinus micaceus*, *Daedaleopsis styracina*, and *Flammulina ~~veltipes~~ velutipes*. Among them, it has been found that a laccase from *Irpex lacteus* shows activity of oxidizing to condense 4-aminoantipyrine and phenol under the reaction condition at pH of around 6.0, resulting in color development (Japanese Patent Laid-open No. Sho 60-156385).